

PRENTICE COMPUTER CENTRE INTERNAL NEWSLETTER

Number 2

March 1987

Editorial

Despite the fierce competition in the communication market, a second newsletter has been produced. While both Alan and I received considerable positive feedback about the initial newsletter our call for contributions met with limited success. As a consequence Alan had to resort to strong arm tactics to get copy for this issue. We repeat our comments of the last newsletter; please feel free to contribute any items you consider of interest to other staff members or the Centre as a whole by forwarding them to Alan or myself.

Geoffrey D

(News) letterhead Competition

I must apologise for the confusion surrounding condition 5 in the competition. It should have read

5. The design must be printable on ONE of the PCC printers.

If anyone feels they were disadvantaged by the above please feel free to discuss it with us. Condition 7 (no correspondence will be entered into) will not apply to problems with Condition 5. Simple isn't it. I wish I had got it right the first time.

Notwithstanding the above, we received 3 entries and the winner will be announced in the next newsletter.

New Faces

Welcome to more new staff members.

Helen Hobbs	Trainee Operator
Katrina Talbot	Trainee Operator

Apologies to George

The first edition of the Newsletter and the previous internal telephone directory both spelt George's surname incorrectly. For the record the correct spelling is George Moylan

Welcome Back Andrew

In the last newsletter we bade farewell to Andrew Broughton who had resigned and taken up a position as Business Analyst with DEC.

Believe it or not, his first project is back at the University working with Wilber and Jim Douglas investigating University Library upgrade options.

Promotions

Congratulations are due to the following staff members who were successful in their applications for promotion in the yearly promotion rounds. These promotions were effective from January 1, 1987.

Sarah Barry	promoted to	Specialist Systems Programmer
Arthur Hartwig	promoted to	Specialist Systems Programmer
Noela Meier	promoted to	Specialist Systems Programmer
Danny Smith	promoted to	Systems Programmer
Mark Williams (Wilber)	promoted to	Specialist Systems Programmer

Changes in Operations and Client Information

Because of the loss of staff from the operations group the responsibilities of a number of people have changed.

- Jeff Scrivener is currently Acting Supervisor and together with Mark Noonan is responsible for the operation of the two shifts.
- David Molloy is currently Acting Supervisor with responsibility for the Program Library and Help Desk.
- Sharon Oberhardt is currently Acting Senior Operator assisting David.
- Lyndal Hill has joined Carol Walker full-time to handle the workload in the Accounts area.

Darwin

For those who missed the two Grahams during February (everyone of course), contrary to popular opinion we were not holidaying in Darwin. We were in fact working our little butts off installing the initial computing facilities for the new University College of the Northern Territory.

I (Wombat - The better looking of the two Grahams) have been involved with this project since the planning phase over 12 months ago so it is somewhat satisfying to finally see the system in and going. They have a Micro VAX II system, 500Mb disk, 9 track tape, LP26 Line printer and an LN03 Laser Printer. We have also installed Ethernet using optical fibre to eliminate problems from electrical storms. Terminal Servers complete the hardware picture. They will be using a variety of VT200 terminals and IBM (or compatible) PCs. There is also more software than you can point a mag tape at including Fortran, Pascal, DEC's 4GL stuff - CDD, Datatrieve, etc - ALL-IN-1, yes sir all on one Micro VAX II. And of course the most important - Communications.

The newest University in AUS has joined SPEARNET (very wise). So in answer to the question on your lips - yes they are running Colour Books. Try sending mail to AUS.AC.UCNT if you don't believe.

GJ insisted we go out to KAKADU on the weekend. You know me guys, I would have stayed and worked, but for the morale of my staff I went. Bit wet but definitely one of earths nice places. The Crocodile Farm is also a must if you are up that way and the Humpy Doo Pub on a Saturday night is on the agenda next time.

Oh, nearly forgot. Max and Martin were up there early in January also involved in this installation. And yes Max a public statement to relieve your worries - you done good.

Graham Rees

Newsletter production medium

For those of you interested in such matters, the first newsletter was prepared on a Macintosh using MacWrite and printed on the Apple LaserWriter. This newsletter was prepared on the IBM 3083E using DCF and GML and printed on the 4250 Electro-erosion printer.

MacBeds ?

In perusing the software specification for the Heron Island accommodation system, the following paragraph stood out.

"The daily occupancy of each bed within each cabin should be shown with the surname and gender of each occupant. It should be possible for the secretary to rearrange the occupancy of each bed simply by altering the entries in the appropriate data set."

The mind boggles !

Dave Keenan

Publicity for the Disabled

Most staff members know Kennedy McConnell and his involvement with projects for the disabled. Indeed a number of staff members give some of their free time to assist with these projects.

Attachment 1 is a copy of an article in the press regarding the disabled, Kennedy and even the Prentice Computer Centre.

More Apologies

Unfortunately, a couple of staff members did not receive the first edition of the Newsletter. No, it wasn't a computer error, we goofed. Public apologies to those concerned.

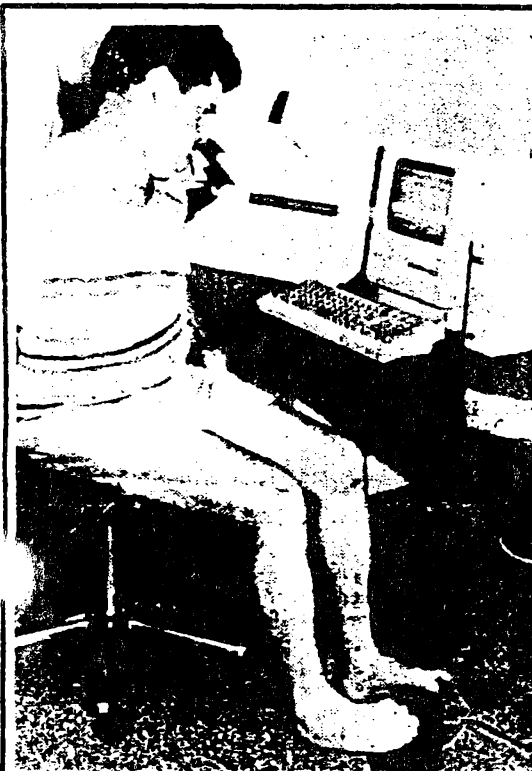
Lauries Slide show

A special thanks to Laurie for the two lunch-time slide shows of his World Safari. Great Stuff. I am looking forward to the next in the series - I hope there is one, the Himalayas would be good.

Chicken & Champagne Evening

The Social Club is organising a Chicken & Champagne evening for Friday the 27th March commencing at 5p.m. in the tea room. To satisfy the special tastes of some of us Vegetarian Pizza will also be served. The all inclusive price is \$9 and money can be paid to Danny Smith or Alex Waskiw.

Sattelite News 4-2-87



• Kennedy McConnell shows how he uses computers with a foot mechanism.

Course for disabled'

By SHIRLEY POWELL

DISABLED people will meet tomorrow to discuss the potential of developing a computer based employment project.

The project has been proposed by an employment task force of the Brisbane West Deanery's Catholic Disabled Care Committee.

Task force spokesman Barry Garvey said the plan would utilise the skills of disabled people in a computer network supplying information for small businesses.

After the disabled people became familiar with the work they would operate the plan using home computers, he said.

Information of use to various businesses would be available through the network.

"Our program is likely to become operational about October or November this year," Mr Garvey said.

"What we trying to do is design a job that's going to utilise the training of many disabled people and give them the benefits of an economically viable wage."

Mr Garvey is hopeful of funding under the Federal Government's Competitive Employment Training and Placement program.

Catholic Social Welfare organised a meeting about 18 months ago to look at the problems of disabled people.

The employment task force, part of the Disabled Care Committee, was established as a result of that meeting.

"We decided to approach disabled people to see if this type of program was agreeable to them," Mr Garvey said, explaining that it was important that they shaped the project.

"Able bodied people just don't appreciate the problems involved," he said.

One man who understands well the difficulties involved is Kennedy McConnell, of St Lucia.

Kennedy has a Bachelor of Arts, is still studying at university and uses computers with a foot mechanism.

Since 1984 he has worked on a project at the university's Prentice Computer Centre, developing more simple access mechanisms for disabled people.

Tomorrow's meeting is open to anyone with a physical disability who is interested in computer work. It will be held at St Bernard's Catholic Church, 9 Lizzie St, Bardon, in the meeting room under the church.

Inquiries to Mr Garvey on 229 5714.